

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for screening a potentially unwanted call, comprising:
if the potentially unwanted call may be made from only a public telephone number, determining whether said call is from a public telephone number or from a private telephone number;
if such call is from a public number, determining whether the called party has a caller ID feature, and if so, completing the call, whereas if the calling part is a private number or if the called party does not subscribe to caller ID, issuing an announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a potentially unwanted call, the calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete the call and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the called party's telephone.

2. A method for screening a potentially unwanted call, comprising:
if the potentially unwanted call may be made from only a public telephone number, determining whether said call is from a public telephone number or from a private telephone number;
if such call is from a public number, determining whether the called party has a caller ID feature, and if so, completing the call, and if not, issuing an announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a potentially unwanted call, the calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete the call and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the called party's telephone.

3. A method for screening a potentially unwanted call, comprising:
if the potentially unwanted call may be made from only a public telephone number, determining whether said call is from a public telephone number or from a private telephone number;
if such call is determined to be from a private telephone number, issuing an announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a potentially unwanted call, the calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete

1 the call and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is
2 dialed preventing ringing of the called party's telephone; and

3 if such call is determined to be from a public number, determining whether
4 the called party has a caller ID feature, and if not, issuing the announcement to
5 the calling party and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if the
6 announcement is issued and any other digit is dialed, preventing ringing of the
7 called party's telephone; and

8 if such call is determined to be from a public number, and if such called
9 party has a caller ID feature, ringing the called party's telephone and delivering to
10 the called party the calling party's public telephone number ID.

1 4. A method for screening telemarketing calls to jurisdictions where such
2 calls may be made from only public telephone numbers, comprising:

3 if a called party subscribes to and has activated a telemarketing-do-not-
4 disturb feature, issuing an announcement to the calling party stating that if the
5 call is a not a telemarketing call, the calling party must enter a designated digit in
6 order to complete the call and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas
7 if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the called party's telephone; and

8 if such call from a public number, determining whether the called party has
9 a caller ID feature, and if not, issuing the announcement to the calling party and if
10 such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed
11 preventing ringing of the called party's telephone; and

12 if such call is from a public number, and if such called party has a caller ID
13 feature; ringing the called party's telephone and delivering to the called party the
14 calling party's public telephone number ID.

1 5. A method for screening a solicitation telephone call on a telephone
2 network, comprising:

3 determining if a jurisdiction of a called party requires solicitor's telephone
4 calls to be identifiable by the called party;

1 determining if a calling party is using a public telephone number if said
2 jurisdiction requires solicitor's telephone calls to be identifiable;

3 determining if said called party has a caller ID feature if said called party is
4 using a public telephone number; and

5 completing said call where either

6 (a) said jurisdiction requires solicitor's telephone calls to be
7 identifiable, said called party is using a public telephone number and said
8 called party has a caller ID feature; or

9 (b) said calling party provides an override digit in response to an
10 announcement provided by said telephone network that identifies said
11 calling party as a solicitor on said caller ID feature of said called party.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising delivering an identifier for said
2 calling party to said caller ID feature when said call is completed.

1 7. The method of claim 5 further comprising issuing a busy tone from said
2 network to said calling party to said caller ID feature when said call is completed.

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4 8 A method for screening a potentially unwanted call, comprising:

5 determining whether the jurisdiction where such call is made to may be made
6 from only a public telephone number;

7 if it is determined that the potentially unwanted call may be made from only a
8 public telephone number, determining whether said call is from a public telephone
9 number or from a private telephone number;

10 if such call is determined to be from a public number, determining whether the
11 called party has a caller ID feature, and if so, completing the call, whereas if the calling
12 part is a private number or if the called party does not subscribe to caller ID, issuing an
13 announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a potentially unwanted call, the
14 calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete the call and if such digit is
15 dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the
16 called party's telephone.

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18 9 A method for screening a potentially unwanted call, comprising:
19 determining whether the jurisdiction where such call is made to may be made
20 from only a public telephone number;

21 if it is determined that the potentially unwanted call may be made from only a
22 public telephone number, determining whether said call is from a public telephone
23 number or from a private telephone number;

24 if such call is determined to be from a public number, determining whether the
25 called party has a caller ID feature, and if so, completing the call, and if not, issuing an
26 announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a potentially unwanted call, the
27 calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete the call and if such digit is
28 dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the
29 called party's telephone.

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31 10 A method for screening a potentially unwanted call, comprising:
32 determining whether the jurisdiction where such call is made to may be made
33 from only a public telephone number;

34 if it is determined that the potentially unwanted call may be made from only a
35 public telephone number, determining whether said call is from a public telephone
36 number or from a private telephone number;

37 if such call is determined to be from a private telephone number, issuing an
38 announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a potentially unwanted call, the
39 calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete the call and if such digit is
40 dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the
41 called party's telephone; and

42 if such call is determined to be from a public number, determining whether the
43 called party has a caller ID feature, and if not, issuing the announcement to the calling
44 party and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if the announcement is
45 issued and any other digit is dialed, preventing ringing of the called party's telephone; and

46 if such call is determined to be from a public number, and if such called party has
47 a caller ID feature, ringing the called party's telephone and delivering to the called party
48 the calling party's public telephone number ID.

49
50 11 A method for screening telemarketing calls to jurisdictions where such calls
51 may be made from only public telephone numbers, comprising:
52 determining whether a call to such jurisdiction is from a public telephone number
53 or from a private telephone number;

54 if such call is determined to be from a private telephone number, if the called
55 party subscribes to and has activated a telemarketing-do-not-disturb feature, issuing an
56 announcement to the calling party stating that if the call is a not a telemarketing call, the
57 calling party must enter a designated digit in order to complete the call and if such digit is
58 dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed preventing ringing of the
59 called party's telephone; and

60 if such call is determined to be from a public number, determining whether the
61 called party has a caller ID feature, and if not, issuing the announcement to the calling
62 party and if such digit is dialed, completing the call whereas if any other digit is dialed
63 preventing ringing of the called party's telephone; and

64 if such call is determined to be from a public number, and if such called party has
65 a caller ID feature; ringing the called party's telephone and delivering to the called party
66 the calling party's public telephone number ID.

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